

Message Text

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TAGS: SOPN, OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)

SUBJECT: PRESS MATERIAL

1. HERewith FULL TEXT JIM BROWNING SPECIAL TO THE CHRIS-
TIAN SCIENCE MONITOR TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 30, HEADED "HAIG
WEIGHS OWN, NATO'S PROSPECTS."
2. PARIS. GEN. ALEXANDER HAIG, FORMERLY CHIEF OF PRESI-
DENT NIXON'S WHITE HOUSE STAFF AND NOW NATO'S SUPREME
ALLIED COMMANDER IN EUROPE, SAYS HE IS HOPING TO KEEP HIS
JOB UNDER A CARTER ADMINISTRATION.
3. ASKED BY REPORTERS IF THE CHANGES IN THE UNITED
STATES GOVERNMENT AFFECT HIS STATUS, HE SAID, "I'M NOT
AWARE THAT THEY DO OR SHOULD."
4. "MILITARY APPOINTMENTS ARE MADE FOR A PERIODIC INCUM-
BENCY. MINE HAS JUST BEEN EXTENDED FOR TWO MORE YEARS, AND
I HOPE TO SEE MY TERM OUT TO ITS CONCLUSION."

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5. GENERAL HAIG, WIDELY VIEWED IN EUROPE AS A YOUNG AND STILL-AMBITIOUS MAN, WAS SPEAKING TO THE ANGLO-AMERICAN PRESS ASSOCIATION IN PARIS.

6. HE AGAIN REFUSED TO DISCUSS PUBLICLY HIS ROLE IN THE LAST DAYS OF THE NIXON ADMINISTRATION. BUT HE POINTEDLY NOTED THAT HE HAS NEVER QUARRELED WITH PRESIDENT FORD'S CONGRESSIONAL TESTIMONY DENYING ANY ADVANCE DISCUSSION OF THE PARDON WITH GENERAL HAIG.

7. NO BOOK PLANNED. HE ALSO SAID HE HAS NO CURRENT PLANS TO WRITE A BOOK OF HIS OWN ABOUT THE NIXON ADMINISTRATION.

8. INSTEAD HE DEVOTED HIS REMARKS TO THE DANGER OF AN UNCERTAIN WESTERN RESPONSE TO WHAT HE DESCRIBED AS A BUILDING SOVIET MILITARY CAPABILITY.

9. GENERAL HAIG SAID HE REJECTS CLAIMS THAT THE WEST IS VULNERABLE TO A SURPRISE ATTACK "WHICH WOULD FIND WARSAW PACT ARMIES ON THE RHINE IN 48 HOURS."

10. BUT HE ADDED, "WE ARE IN A PERIOD OF DECLINING WARNING TIME."

11. ALTHOUGH HE SAID THAT NATO'S NUCLEAR AND CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS ARE A "HEALTHY AND VIABLE" DETERRENT TO ATTACK, HE IS "NOT SATISFIED WITH OUR CAPABILITY IN THE CONVENTIONAL DEFENSE AREA. THAT HAS BEEN AND CONTINUES TO BE THE PRIMARY FOCUS OF ALL PROJECTS LAUNCHED IN MY TWO-YEAR TERM (THUS FAR) AT NATO."

12. A REPORT PUBLISHED RECENTLY BY THE ATLANTIC INSTITUTE FOR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS IN PARIS CHARGED THAT NATO IS AS DISORGANIZED AS THE TOWER OF BABEL.

13. LACK OF COORDINATION? PREPARED BY GARDINER TUCKER, A FORMER ASSISTANT SECRETARY-GENERAL OF NATO, THE REPORT CHARGED THAT THERE WAS GLARINGLY POOR COORDINATION WITHIN THE ALLIANCE. THE QUESTION OF COORDINATION HAS BEEN ONE OF GENERAL HAIG'S MAJOR CONCERNS SINCE HE ARRIVED HERE IN UNCLASSIFIED

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1974.

14. AMMUNITION IS NOT INTERCHANGEABLE, AIRPLANES CANNOT REFUEL EASILY IN ALLIED COUNTRIES, AND COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEMS REQUIRE SPECIAL LINKUPS FOR TWO ALLIED ARMIES TO TALK TO EACH OTHER IN THE FIELD.

15. EASTERN ARMIES, THE REPORT SAID, ARE MORE CLOSELY

CENTERED ON INTERCHANGEABLE SOVIET EQUIPMENT.

16. "THE CAPABILITIES THAT THE SOVIETS HAVE DEVELOPED AND CONTINUE TO DEVELOP AT A RELENTLESS PACE," GENERAL HAIG SAID, "EXCEED THOSE REQUIRED FOR PURELY DEFENSIVE NEEDS."

17. THE NATO COMMANDER SAID IT WAS NOT HIS JOB TO SPECULATE ABOUT SOVIET INTENTIONS, JUST THEIR CAPABILITY. "IF THAT DOES NOT FALL OFF," HE ADDED, "THE WEST WILL HAVE TO SPEND MORE MONEY, SOMETHING WHICH IS ALREADY HAPPENING."

18. BUILDUP OVER PAST DECADE. ACCORDING TO GENERAL HAIG, THE SOVIET UNION HAS IN THE PAST DECADE INCREASED ITS TANK STRENGTH BY 40 PERCENT AND ITS CONVENTIONAL ARTILLERY BY 50 PERCENT, WHILE ADDING 130,000 MEN TO ITS FORCES IN THE WESTERN THEATER.

19. BUT HE ARGUED THAT THE BIGGEST THREAT TO THE WEST IN THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE IS NOT DIRECT ATTACK. RATHER, HE SAID IT IS A CONTINUING SERIES OF THE "AMBIVALENT SITUATIONS WE HAVE KNOWN IN THE '60S AND '70S"--SOME THE PRODUCT OF THE THIRD-WORLD SITUATION--WHICH WILL CONTINUE TO STRAIN THE UNITY OF THE NATO COUNTRIES. (END TEXT) ROBINSON

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